

U.S. Department of Labor

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FLORIDA JOB CORPS STUDENTS SERVE THEIR COMMUNITIES
Florida Job Corps Centers Donated 16,293 Hours to Volunteer Projects in 2004

ATLANTA – Florida Job Corps students displayed their talents and skills as well as their love for their communities by contributing 16,293 hours of community service in 2004.

Whether stocking shelves and distributing food to the needy with United Way, assisting the American Red Cross with local blood drives or even volunteering for civic beautification, students at the four Florida Job Corps centers (Gainesville, Homestead, Jacksonville and Miami) put their job skills training to use and made a lasting impact in the communities around them.

“Job Corps has been making a difference in the lives of our students and our neighbors since its founding 40 years ago,” said Job Corps Atlanta Region Director Don Scott. “Giving back to the communities where our centers are located is one of the most important things we do as a program each year.”

Students at the Gainesville JCC worked with nearly a dozen organizations and contributed 3,736 hours of community service in 2004. Volunteer projects included: assembling care packages for the homeless, assisting with various blood drives and organizing donation campaigns for homeless families in the Gainesville area. Throughout the year, Gainesville JCC worked with organizations such as the American Red Cross, Florida Department of Children and Families, Habitat for Humanity and LifeSouth Blood Center.

The Homestead JCC donated 1,306 hours of service to the community. Students and staff worked with organizations like the Trinity Church of Homestead to renovate the facilities, the Isaac Withers Enrichment Center to create and deliver Thanksgiving food baskets and the Coral Reef Nursing Home to read to and spend time with the residents. Other projects included various community cleanup and park improvement projects, visits to local elementary schools for mentoring opportunities and facility maintenance assistance for the Humane Society.

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Jacksonville JCC contributed 3,272 hours of community service during 2004. Students assisted in the renovation of an apartment building to provide access for the handicapped, tutored and mentored students at the St. Clair Evans Academy and canvassed neighborhoods to generate a high voter turnout for the November elections. The Jacksonville JCC also worked with the Jacksonville Zoo, Jacksonville Sheriff and Health Department and Shands Hospital, among others during the past year.

The Miami JCC led all Florida centers with 7,979 hours of service hours in 2004. Miami JCC students used their carpentry skills to help Team Metro with home renovations and highlighted their landscaping abilities by helping organizations like the Association for Retarded Citizens with landscaping and the creation of a butterfly garden. The Miami JCC also assisted with the sorting and distribution of donated goods for Haitian hurricane relief, creation of Murals for United Way and the organization of a holiday food drive for families in need.

“Job Corps has been making a difference in the lives of the nation’s youth since its inception, and it’s vital that we teach our students the importance of giving back to their communities,” Scott said. “This year we are celebrating our 40th Anniversary, and there’s no better way to commemorate this occasion than by making a difference in the communities that have provided support and encouragement to each of our centers for the last four decades.”

Job Corps students nationwide represent one of the largest volunteer forces in the United States. Collectively, the 19 centers in the Southeast (Job Corps Atlanta Region) donated more than 101,119 hours of community service in 2004.

Projects in the region include:

- ? Blood drives with the American Red Cross
- ? Providing support for The Salvation Army
- ? Beautification projects for Make a Difference Day
- ? Various fund-raising events with local schools and churches
- ? Cleanup projects for Adopt-a-Highway
- ? Walk-a-thons benefiting various organizations (March of Dimes, Leukemia Society)
- ? Visiting the elderly in nursing homes

Job Corps is celebrating its 40th Anniversary from September 2004 to September 2005. Job Corps is the nation’s largest and oldest federally funded job training and education program for disadvantaged youths ages 16 through 24. At 122 centers nationwide, the program trains 65,000 youth each year in more than 100 different trade areas. For more information about Job Corps, call (800) 733-JOBS or visit <http://jobcorps.doleta.gov>.

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